a' .	Case 2:13-cv-09495-AB-JEM Document 1	Filed 12/27/13 Page 1 of 14 Page ID #:10 F!LED
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	LAW OFFICES OF TODD M. FRIEDMAN, I Todd M. Friedman, Esq. (SBN: 216752) Nicholas J. Bontrager, Esq. (SBN: 252114) tfriedman@attorneysforconsumers.com nbontrager@attomeysforconsumers.com 369 S. Doheny Dr., #415 Beverly Hills, CA 90211 Telephone: (877) 206-4741 Facsimile: (866) 633-0228 Attorneys for Plaintiff	CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DIST, OF CALIF. LOS ANGELES
9	UNITED STATES D FOR THE CENTRAL DIST	i i
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	JED ALEXANDER, INDIVIDUALLY AND ON BEHALF) OF ALL OTHERS SIMILARLY SITUATED, Plaintiff, vs. CREDIT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION I, INC. Defendant.	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF PURSUANT TO THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT, 47 U.S.C. § 227, ET SEQ. JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
24 25 26 27 28	/// CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT /// DEC 2 4 2013 /// CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA DEPUTY.	,
•	CLASS ACTION (COMPLAINT - 1

INTRODUCTION

- 1. JED ALEXANDER ("Plaintiff") brings this Class Action Complaint for damages, injunctive relief, and any other available legal or equitable remedies, resulting from the illegal actions of CREDIT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION I, INC. ("Defendant"), in negligently and/or willfully contacting Plaintiff on Plaintiff's cellular telephone, in violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq., ("TCPA"), thereby invading Plaintiff's privacy. Plaintiff alleges as follows upon personal knowledge as to himself and his own acts and experiences, and, as to all other matters, upon information and belief, including investigation conducted by his attorneys.
- 2. The TCPA was designed to prevent calls like the ones described herein, and to protect the privacy of citizens like Plaintiff. "Voluminous consumer complaints about abuses of telephone technology for example, computerized calls dispatched to private homes prompted Congress to pass the TCPA." Mims v. Arrow Fin. Servs., LLC, 132 S. Ct. 740, 744 (2012).
- 3. In enacting the TCPA, Congress intended to give consumers a choice as to how corporate similar entities may contact them, and made specific findings that "[t]echnologies that might allow consumers to avoid receiving such calls are not universally available, are costly, are unlikely to be enforced, or place an inordinate burden on the consumer. TCPA, Pub.L. No. 102–243, § 11. In support of this, Congress found that

[b]anning such automated or prerecorded telephone calls to the home, except when the receiving party consents to receiving the call or when such calls are necessary in an emergency situation affecting the health and safety of the consumer, is the only effective means of protecting telephone consumers from this nuisance and privacy invasion.

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Id. at § 12; see also Martin v. Leading Edge Recovery Solutions, LLC, 2012 WL 3292838, at* 4 (N.D.Ill. Aug. 10, 2012) (citing Congressional findings on TCPA's purpose).

- 4. Congress also specifically found that "the evidence presented to the Congress indicates that automated or prerecorded calls are a nuisance and an invasion of privacy, regardless of the type of call...." Id. at §§ 12-13. See also, Mims, 132 S. Ct. at 744.
- 5. As Judge Easterbrook of the Seventh Circuit recently explained in a TCPA case regarding calls to a non-debtor similar to this one:

The Telephone Consumer Protection Act ... is well known for its provisions limiting junk-fax transmissions. A less-litigated part of the Act curtails the use of automated dialers and prerecorded messages to cell phones, whose subscribers often are billed by the minute as soon as the call is answered—and routing a call to voicemail counts as answering the call. An automated call to a landline phone can be an annoyance; an automated call to a cell phone adds expense to annoyance.

Soppet v. Enhanced Recovery Co., LLC, 679 F.3d 637, 638 (7th Cir. 2012).

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 6. This Court has federal question jurisdiction because this case arises out of violations of federal law. 47 U.S.C. §227(b); Mims v. Arrow Fin. Servs., LLC, 132 S. Ct. 740 (2012).
- 7. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the Central District of California pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and 1441(a) because Defendant is subject to personal jurisdiction in the County of Los Angeles, State of California.

PARTIES

- 8. Plaintiff is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a citizen and resident of the State of California. Plaintiff is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a "person" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153 (10).
- 9. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a corporation whose State of Incorporation and principal place of business is in the State of Texas. Defendant, is and at all times mentioned herein was, a corporation and is a "person," as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153 (10). Plaintiff alleges that at all times relevant herein Defendant conducted business in the State of California and in the County of Los Angeles, and within this judicial district.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 10. At all times relevant, Plaintiff was a citizen of the County of Los Angeles, State of California. Plaintiff is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a "person" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153 (10).
- 11. Defendant is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a corporation and a "person," as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153 (10).
- 12. At all times relevant Defendant conducted business in the State of California and in the County of Los Angeles, within this judicial district.
- 13. On or about August 2, 2013, the Defendant left a voicemail on Plaintiff's cellular phone which indicated that the Defendant was making an attempt to collect a debt.
- 14. On or about August 5, 2013 at 15:04, Plaintiff faxed a letter to the Defendant at Fax No. 972-726-7557 which expressly revoked all prior business relationships as defined by the Telephone Consumer Protections Act and expressly revoked any prior consent to call his cellular telephone number ending in 6659.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - 4

- 15. On or about August 6, 2013, the Defendant called and left a voicemail on Plaintiff's cellular phone which indicated that the Defendant was making an attempt to collect a debt.
- 16. When Plaintiff did not answer Defendant's call, Defendant left Plaintiff a voicemail message on his cellular telephone which utilized a pre-recorded or artificial voice dialing system requesting a return call.
- 17. This phone call placed to Plaintiff's cellular telephone was placed via an "automatic telephone dialing system," ("ATDS") as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227 (a)(1) as prohibited by 47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(1)(A).
- 18. The telephone number that Defendant, or its agent called was assigned to a cellular telephone service for which Plaintiff incurs a charge for incoming calls pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(1).
- 19. These telephone calls constituted calls that were not for emergency purposes as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(1)(A)(i).
- 20. At no time, including as of August 5, 2013, did Plaintiff provide Defendant or its agents with prior express consent to receive phone calls utilizing a pre-recorded, artificial voice or ATDS, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(1)(A).
- 21. These telephone calls by Defendant, or its agents, violated 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1).

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 22. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and on behalf of and all others similarly situated ("the Class").
- 22. Plaintiff represents, and is a member of, the Class, consisting of All persons within the United States who received any telephone call/s from Defendant or its agent/s and/or employee/s to said person's cellular telephone made through the use of any automatic telephone dialing system or with an

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- 23. Defendant and its employees or agents are excluded from the Class. Plaintiff does not know the number of members in the Class, but believes the Class members number in the thousands, if not more. Thus, this matter should be certified as a Class action to assist in the expeditious litigation of this matter.
- 24. Plaintiff and members of the Class were harmed by the acts of Defendant in at least the following ways: Defendant, either directly or through its agents, illegally contacted Plaintiff and the Class members via their cellular telephones by using an ATDS or an artificial, pre-recorded voice, thereby causing Plaintiff and the Class members to incur certain cellular telephone charges or reduce cellular telephone time for which Plaintiff and the Class members previously paid, and invading the privacy of said Plaintiff and the Class members. Plaintiff and the Class members were damaged thereby.
- 25. This suit seeks only damages and injunctive relief for recovery of economic injury on behalf of the Class, and it expressly is not intended to request any recovery for personal injury and claims related thereto. Plaintiff reserves the right to expand the Class definition to seek recovery on behalf of additional persons as warranted as facts are learned in further investigation and discovery.
- 26. The joinder of the Class members is impractical and the disposition of their claims in the Class action will provide substantial benefits both to the parties and to the court. The Class can be identified through Defendant's records or Defendant's agents' records.
- 27. There is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and fact involved affecting the parties to be represented. The questions of law and fact to the Class predominate over questions which may affect individual Class members, including the following:

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- a) Whether, within the four years prior to the filing of this Complaint,

 Defendant or its agents sent any phone calls to the Class (other than
 a message made for emergency purposes or made with the prior
 express consent of the called party) to a Class member using any
 automatic dialing system and/or artificial pre-recorded voice to any
 telephone number assigned to a cellular phone service;
- b) Whether Plaintiff and the Class members were damaged thereby, and the extent of damages for such violation; and
- c) Whether Defendant and its agents should be enjoined from engaging in such conduct in the future.
- 28. As a person that received atleast one phone call via ATDS and/or artificial, pre-recorded voice without Plaintiff's prior express consent, Plaintiff is asserting claims that are typical of the Class. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class in that Plaintiff has no interests antagonistic to any member of the Class.
- 29. Plaintiff and the members of the Class have all suffered irreparable harm as a result of the Defendant's unlawful and wrongful conduct. Absent a class action, the Class will continue to face the potential for irreparable harm. In addition, these violations of law will be allowed to proceed without remedy and Defendant will likely continue such illegal conduct. Because of the size of the individual Class member's claims, few, if any, Class members could afford to seek legal redress for the wrongs complained of herein.
- 30. Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in handling class action claims and claims involving violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act.
- 31. A class action is a superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. Class-wide damages are essential to induce

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Defendant to comply with federal and California law. The interest of Class members in individually controlling the prosecution of separate claims against Defendant is small because the maximum statutory damages in an individual action for violation of privacy are minimal. Management of these claims is likely to present significantly fewer difficulties than those presented in many class claims.

32. Defendant has acted on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief and corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION NEGLIGENT VIOLATIONS OF THE TCPA 47 U.S.C. § 227 ET SEQ.

- 33. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 34. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant constitute numerous and multiple negligent violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of the above-cited provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq.
- 35. As a result of Defendant's negligent violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq, Plaintiff and The Class are entitled to an award of \$1, 500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).
- 36. Plaintiff and the Class are also entitled to and seek injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION KNOWING AND/OR WILLFUL VIOLATIONS OF THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 47 U.S.C. § 227 ET SEQ.

- 37. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 38. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant constitute numerous and multiple knowing and/or willful violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of the above-cited provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq.
- 39. As a result of Defendant's knowing and/or willful violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq, Plaintiff and The Class are entitled to an award of \$1,500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B) and 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C).
- 40. Plaintiff and the Class are also entitled to and seek injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiff respectfully requests the Court grant Plaintiff, and The Class members the following relief against Defendant:

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION NEGLIGENT VIOLATIONS OF THE TCPA 47 U.S.C. § 227 ET SEQ.

- As a result of Defendant's negligent and/or willful violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1), Plaintiff seeks for himself and each Class member \$1,500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).
- Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(A), injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.
 - Any other relief the Court may deem just and proper.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION KNOWING AND/OR WILLFUL VIOLATIONS OF THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 47 U.S.C. § 227 ET SEQ.

- As a result of Defendant's negligent violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1), Plaintiff seeks for himself and each Class member \$1, 500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).
- Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(A), injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.
 - Any other relief the Court may deem just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY

Pursuant to the seventh amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, Plaintiff is entitled to, and demands, a trial by jury.

Respectfully submitted December , 2013.

LAW OFFICES OF TODD M. FRIEDMAN, P.C.

By: _____

Todd Friedman

Law Offices of Todd Friedman, P.C.

Attorney for Plaintiff

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - 10

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES JUDGES

This case has been assigned to Di	istrict Judge	Audrey B. Co	ollins	and the assigned
Magistrate Judge is John E. M	cDermott .			_
The case number on all	documents filed with	the Court shoul	ld read as follow	s:
2	2:13-CV-9495-AB	C (JEMx)		
Pursuant to General Order 05-07 California, the Magistrate Judge has been				istrict of
All discovery related motions sho	ould be noticed on th	e calendar of the	Magistrate Judg	ge.
		Clerk, U. S. Di	istrict Court	
December 27, 2013		By MDAVIS		
Date		Deputy Cle	erk	
	NOTICE TO CO	UNSEL		
A copy of this notice must be served with filed, a copy of this notice must be served		nplaint on all dej	^f endants (if a ren	noval action is
Subsequent documents must be filed a	t the following locat	ion:		
Western Division [312 N. Spring Street, G-8] Los Angeles, CA 90012 Failure to file at the proper location with the pro	Southern Division 411 West Fourth St., S Santa Ana, CA 92701 Ill result in your doc		Eastern Division 3470 Twelfth Str Riverside, CA 92 turned to you.	reet, Room 134

Case 2:13-cv-09495-AB-JEM Document 1	Filed 12/27/13 Page 12 of 14 Page ID #:21
Todd M. Friedman, Esq. Law Offices of Todd M. Friedman, P.C. 369 S. Doheny Dr., #415 Beverly Hills, CA. 90211 Phone: 87/7-206-47/41 Fax: 866-633-0228	
UNITED STATES I CENTRAL DISTRIC	DISTRICT COURT T OF CALIFORNIA
JED ALEXANDER, thoiridually and on BEHALF of ALL Others Similarly Situated	CASE NUMBER
PLAINTIFF(S)	CV13-09495-ABC/JEM
CREDIT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION I, INC., DEFENDANT(S):	SUMMONS
A lawsuit has been filed against you. Within 21 days after service of this summon must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached or motion must be served on the plaintiff's attorney. To Law Offices of Todd M. Friedman, 369 S. Doheny Dr., judgment by default will be entered against you for the region or motion with the court.	ns on you (not counting the day you received it), you complaint 2 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer dd M. Friedman , whose address is #415, Beverly Hills, CA 90211 . If you fail to do so,
Dated: DEC 27 2013	By: MARILYN DAVIS Deputy Clerk (Seal of the Court) 1227
[Use 60 days if the defendant is the United States or a United State 60 days by Rule 12(a)(3)].	s agency, or is an officer or employee of the United States. Allowed
CV-01A (12/07) SUMI	AONS

Case 2:13-cv-09495-AB-JEM Document 1 Filed 12/27/13 Page 13 of 14 Page ID #:22 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SMEET

Citizen of This State	· <u> </u>						
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ONLY: Case Number: 13-19495

AFTER COMPLETING THE FRONT SIDE OF FORM CV-71, COMPLETE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW. FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

YIII(a). IDENTICAL CASES: Has this action been previously filed in this court and dismissed, remanded or closed? [No] Yes If yes, list case number(s): YIII(b). RELATED CASES: Have any cases been previously filed in this court that are related to the present case? No 🗆 Yes If yes, list case number(s): _ Civil cases are deemed related if a previously filed case and the present case: (Check all boxes that apply) \(\sigma\) A. Arise from the same or closely related transactions, happenings, or events; or □ B. Call for determination of the same or substantially related or similar questions of law and fact; or C. For other reasons would entail substantial duplication of labor if heard by different judges; or D. Involve the same patent, trademark or copyright, and one of the factors identified above in a, b or c also is present. IX. VENUE: (When completing the following information, use an additional sheet if necessary.) List the County in this District; California County outside of this District; State if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named plaintiff resides, Check here if the government, its agencies or employees is a named plaintiff. If this box is checked, go to item (b). California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country County in this District:* Los Angeles List the County in this District; California County outside of this District; State if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named defendant resides. Check here if the government, its agencies or employees is a named defendant. If this box is checked, go to item (c), California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country County in this District:* Texas (c) List the County in this District; California County outside of this District; State if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH claim arose. Note: In land condemnation cases, use the location of the tract of land involved. California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country County in this District:* Los Angeles * Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Lilis Obispo Counties Note: In land condemnation cases, use the location of the tract of land involved Date December 17 2013 X, SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (OR PRO PER); Notice to Counsel/Parties: The CV-71 (JS-44) Civil Cover Sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required pursuant to Local Rule 3-1 is not filed but is used by the Clerk of the Court for the purpose of statistics, venue and initiating the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions, see separate instructions sheet.) Key to Statistical codes relating to Social Security Cases: Substantive Statement of Cause of Action Nature of Suit Code Abbreylation All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. HIA 361 Also, include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the program, (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b)) All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. BL \$62 (30 U.S.C. 923) All claims filed by insured workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as 863 DIWC amended; plus all claims filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405(g)) All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security DIWW 863 Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 405(g)) All claims for supplemental security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security 864 SSID Act, as amended. All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended, (42

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U.S.C. (g))